

## **FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET**

**Meeting Date:** June 7, 2017

**Agenda Item:** Nongame Check-Off Workplan

**Division:** Wildlife

**Action Needed:** Proposed

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 5 Min

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### **Background**

Under the provisions of 87-5-122, MCA, “the FWP Commission shall review and annually approve the nongame wildlife program’s projects recommended by the Department for funding from the nongame wildlife account. The Commission shall provide for public comment during the review and approval process.” While final 2016 tax year donations are unknown at this time, the average received by FWP from the 2004-2015 tax years was \$30,000/year. FWP is proposing the following work in FY18 with this anticipated funding in addition to some balance in the fund from previous years:

<b>\$30,000</b>	Inventory, monitoring and conservation work on Montana Species of Concern and species in need of inventory as determined through a formal ranking process.
<b>\$15,000</b>	Wildlife viewing and outreach projects that encourage more Montanans to appreciate Montana wildlife.
<b>\$ 5,000</b>	Competitive student stipend for nongame research.

### **Public Involvement & Results**

Public comment will be solicited upon tentative Commission approval.

### **Alternatives and Analysis**

The recommended work addresses several components of FWP’s overall nongame management program (including threatened and endangered species management), as identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan. Tax check-off funding is used in conjunction with State Wildlife Grants to address high priority habitat, survey and inventory, and species conservation needs. Alternatives could include allocating more or less among these categories.

### **Agency Recommendation & Rationale**

FWP recommends the F&W Commission endorse the proposed work for funding with nongame tax check-off funds.

### **Proposed Motion**

I move the Fish & Wildlife Commission approve the proposed Nongame Tax Check-Off work for Fiscal Year 2018.